

What is claimed is:

1. A retaining wall block comprising:

a body having a front, rear, bottom, top, and side surfaces;

5 a central cavity extending vertically through said body and defining front, rear,
and side walls, said walls having inner surfaces;

a front corner at the intersection of each of said side walls and said front wall;

said side walls diverging rearwardly from said front corner of said block;

a stabilizing wing extending outwardly from each of said side walls adjacent said
10 rear surface;

each of said wings extending substantially less than a plane tangent to said front
corner and perpendicular to said front surface;

two positioning wedges extending from said bottom surface, said positioning
wedges including flat forward surfaces; and

15 said flat forward surface of said positioning wedge being located nearer said front
surface than is said inner surface of said front wall;

whereby a plurality of said blocks are formed into a retaining wall by placing a
lower tier of blocks with said blocks in said lower tier in contact at said front corners and
forming an upper tier of blocks by placing said flat forward surfaces of said positioning
20 wedges of said blocks of said upper tier in engagement with said inner surface of said
front wall of one or more of said blocks in said lower tier.

2. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein said positioning wedges extend laterally from said side interior wall of said block to said side surface of said block.

3. The retaining wall block of claim 2 wherein said positioning wedges include an interior side wall portion coplanar with said inner surface of said side wall of said block and an exterior side wall portion coplanar with said side surface of said block.

4. The retaining wall block of claim 3 wherein said positioning wedges are substantially rectangular shaped.

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5. The retaining wall block of claim 1 which includes channels on said top surface extending a first depth into each of said side walls.

6. The retaining wall block of claim 5 wherein said channels include flat forward edges coplanar with said front inner wall surface.

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7. The retaining wall block of claim 6 wherein said channels extending said first depth accommodate said positioning wedges of said blocks in said upper tier of blocks.

8. The retaining wall block of claim 6 wherein said flat forward surface of said positioning wedges are positioned nearer said front surface of said block than said flat forward edge of said channel and said front interior wall surface thereby positioning said

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front surface in said upper tier of blocks a first distance behind said front surface of said lower tier of blocks.

9. The retaining wall block of claim 8 wherein said front surface of said block includes a vertical portion extending from said bottom surface and a beveled portion extending from
5 said vertical portion to said top surface.

10. The retaining wall block of claim 9 wherein said beveled portion extends laterally to said vertical portion by a second distance thereby enabling said blocks in said tiers of
10 blocks to present a forward wall face including a series of vertical and beveled surfaces.

11. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein said side walls diverge rearwardly from said front surface at an angle of 20 degrees or greater from perpendicular with said front surface.

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12. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein said side walls diverge rearwardly from said front surface at an angle of 27 degrees from perpendicular with said front surface.

13. The retaining wall block of claim 1 further wherein said wings have rear surfaces
20 coplanar with said rear surface of said block.

14. The retaining wall block of claim 5 wherein said channels of said lower tier of blocks are oriented in such a manner to accept said positioning wedges on said bottom surface of said upper tier of blocks.

5 15. The retaining wall block of claim 1 wherein said series of blocks in each of said tiers are stacked in a straight line to form a straight retaining wall.

16. The retaining wall block of claim 15 wherein said channels in said top surface of a lower tier of blocks in said straight retaining wall provide openings for passage of said
10 positioning wedges in said bottom surface of an upper tier of blocks when a block of said upper tier of blocks is slidingly moved with respect to said lower tier of blocks.

17. The retaining wall block of claim 8 wherein said first distance is 0.75 inch thereby creating a setback between successive tiers of blocks.

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18. The retaining wall block of claim 17 wherein the setback vertically across the face of said retaining wall is 6 degrees.